

2013-08-08 Phone conversation

Citizen Complaint

Dr. Gerald Valentine

203-499-7474

August 2012: Uncontrolled discharges from a combined sewer, not a CSO location. Flooded a garage. Garage is also a loading dock for a cancer center. No discharge to a water of the US.

Has pursued an insurance claim with the garage, but denied. They determined it was sewage, but that the garage was not responsible. Learned that this has happened before.

Is exploring a civil action against the garage (I think against the garage).

Talked to Yvonne Hall from CT DEEP.

Talked to engineer from WPCA. Learned of a cross connection between the combined sewer and the storm drain leading in to it.

Knew about Save the Sound / CFE.

I urged him to keep pursuing this issue and to be an active voice in the community on behalf of increased work and funding for clean water infrastructure.

I gave him my phone number and invited him to call back whenever he wanted.

2013-08-09 phone conversation

I called Dr. Valentine back.

I discussed your tip with a couple of my colleagues, and they suggested that we may have a couple of regulatory hooks in the case, even though the garage is not a water of the US.

It is possible that someone (the garage, the WPCA) is discharging sewage through the stormwater system to a water of the US as the garage drains. Does the garage drain to the combined sewer?

Catchbasins in the garage drained the sewage. Piping plans of parking authority do not show where connections go. Three catchbasin - all three behave differently. Land transfer from state didn't include required information.

Sanitary waste from the cancer center converges and goes into combined sewer. Storm system nearby that drains to the harbor.

It is possible that the discharge of sewage into this garage represents an “imminent and substantial endangerment” to human health. How often do such discharges occur?

Storm occurred August 10, 2012. Also has flooded October 1, 2010 and Sept 28, 2012. Oct 1, 2010 occurred before workday, so only one car damaged. Not sure if Oct 1, 2010 event involved sewage.

New Haven parking authority. Air Rights Garage. 60 York Street. Adjacent to Regulator R-34. Which flows to CSO-025.

Many bypasses reported to CT DEEP on 10/1/2010 due to rain. Union Ave and Meadow St combined sewage called in by motorist.
No bypasses reported on 8/10/2012.
No bypasses reported on 9/28/2012.

Date	Bypasses reported?	Precip (Tweed-New Haven Airport) (inches)
10/1/2010	Many bypasses reported to CT DEEP due to rain. Union Ave and Meadow St combined sewage called in by motorist.	1.04
8/10/2012	No bypasses reported	2.36
9/28/2012	No bypasses reported	2.51

Data from 8/1/2010 through 8/9/2013 examined. Ten dates with at least two inches of rain. Largest single day: 2.72 inches.

It is possible that the discharge of sewage into this garage represents an “imminent and substantial endangerment” to human health. How often do such discharges occur?

Temple Street garage also floods.

2013-08-13 research

Get hourly rainfall data.

Date	Hourly rainfall	Storm frequency (Using table provided in CT DOT manual)
10/1/2010		
8/10/2012	2.3” between 14:00 and 16:00	Between a 5 and 10 year frequency occurrence
9/28/2012		

2013-11-27 Phone conversation

Filed a complaint with the public health department. GNHWPCA told the health department that the problem is taken care of and that it shouldn’t be a problem anymore.

Health department has an emergency protocol that they should notify fire department, etc. Not being done.

Can I send him a copy of the 2013 annual progress report?

Looking to show there was deliberate misconduct. Ministerial - not about judgement. Recent CT Supreme Court decision ruled in favor of plaintiffs in Bridgeport and Cheshire.

2013-12-06 phone conversation

In LTCP, for CSO 031 (South Frontage CSO), there was a complaint log. Explicit reference to complaint log documenting flooding in the area.

Insurance company risk control engineer describes the scene of the flooding. Parking authority never received license to Connecticut Mental Health Center parking. Flooding in 2010 and 2012. No reporting to fire department.

2013-12-12 phone conversatoin

Temple Street garage. Floods from regulator 034. Below ground level. Flooding in 2010. 1 year storm.

2001-2010 how many events? no parking. flooded in 2001, started leasing spaces in 2010.

2013-12-13 phone conversation

Documents from before 2010.

Gerald.valentine@yale.edu

2013-12-16 GNH SSO inspection

Visited Air Rights Garage. Observed closed regulator 031.

2014-01-22 phone conversation

Reference Gerry's report? No.

CSO 031 discharged into the garage. The 2013 AR said it was closed. They went back and looked, and found that it was open. Sgroi said that the invert wouldn't flood the garage. The LTCP specifically identified with an expensive solution.

Gave contact information for Neil and Denny.

2014-01-27 research

Read Cardinal Engineering Associates report.

2-year storm:

HGL at Temple St and North Frontage Road is at 19 ft. Street elevation at 15.5 ft. Need to use relative elevations to figure out potential impact at UARG due to different elevations. GIS map elevation at location: 15 ft. Elevation at entrance to UARG: < 15 ft.

10-year storm: HGL @ 21 feet.

2014-04-10 Controlled Correspondence

Rep. Rosa DeLauro's office.

2014-07-21 FOIA request

Provided copy of February 2014 Request for Information and GNH's response.

2014-07-22 emails

Pictures of flooding in the air rights garage from June 13, 2014, and July 13, 2014.

2014-10-16 email

Possible Ebola case at Yale-New Haven Hospital
Matt Rubano copied.

2015-03-02 Conservation

Asked about the findings from the 2013 inspection. I directed him to send me an email requesting a copy of the inspection report. He sent the email and I sent him the report. Dr. Valentine says that GNH is lying to us. I say that my role is not to assess whether people are lying, only to assess compliance. Criminal investigators typically get involved if folks are lying about compliance.

2015-07-15 phone conversation

Dr. Valentine told me about his research and asked if he could send me a report. I agreed.

2015-07-20 phone conversation

Flow from "geyser" manhole in August 2012. Manhole has since been eliminated. Dr. Valentine postulates that REG 031 was connected to the geyser manhole, not to the manhole located much closer to the combined sewer – a manhole which may have not even existed. The difference is important because the location of the geyser manhole would cause overflows from the manhole cover to enter the Air Rights Garage, which GNH said could not have been flooded by combined sewage.

I told Dr. Valentine that since the problem has been fixed, this matter did not rise to the level at which I thought it was appropriate to investigate further. I agreed to run the matter by criminal.

[REDACTED]

2015-08 staff meeting

[REDACTED]

Summary

I've spoken to Dr. Valentine on the phone about 10 times.

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